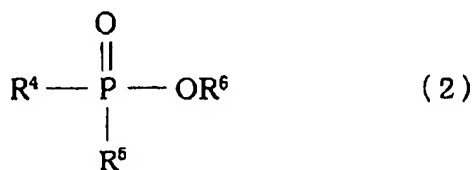


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-7. (Canceled).

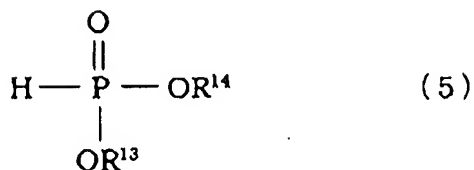
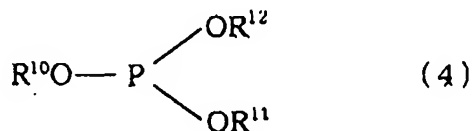
8. (Currently Amended) A heat-resistant expanded graphite sheet, comprising an organic phosphorus compound selected from the group consisting of ~~an organic phosphonic acid and an ester thereof~~, an organic phosphinic acid and an ester thereof, a phosphorous acid ester, and a hypophosphorous acid ester, and graphite particles consisting of compressed expanded graphite particles with respect to graphite particles, said expanded graphite particles having an expansion rate of 200 to 300 times being compressed, and said organic phosphorus compound being dispersedly contained in a proportion of 0.1 to 10% by weight in said sheet, the organic phosphinic acid or the ester thereof being represented by the following general formula (2):



wherein R⁴ is an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 10, an aryl group having a carbon number of 6 to 18, or an aralkyl group consisting of an alkylene portion having a carbon number of 1 to 10 and an aryl portion having a carbon number of 6 to 18, and each of R⁵ and R⁶ is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 10, an aryl group having a carbon number of 6 to 18, or an aralkyl group consisting of an alkylene portion having a carbon number of 1 to 10 and an aryl portion having a carbon number of 6 to 18.

9.-10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) The heat-resistant expanded graphite sheet according to claim 8, wherein the phosphorous acid ester is selected from a phosphorous acid triester which is represented by the following general formula (4) and a phosphorous acid diester and a phosphorous acid monoester which are represented by the following general formula (5):

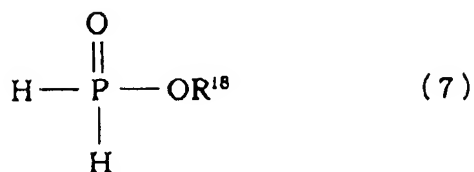
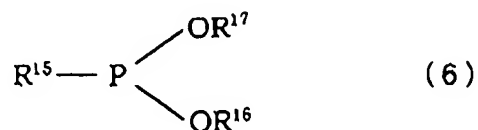


wherein each of R^{10} , R^{11} , and R^{12} is an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 10, an aryl group having a carbon number of 6 to 18, or an aralkyl group consisting of an alkylene portion having a carbon number of 1 to 10 and an aryl portion having a carbon number of 6 to 18, and each of R^{13} and R^{14} is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 10, an aryl group having a carbon number of 6 to 18, or an aralkyl group consisting of an alkylene portion having a carbon number of 1 to 10 and an aryl portion having a carbon number of 6 to 18, providing that a case where both of R^{13} and R^{14} are hydrogen atoms is excluded.

12. (Previously Presented) The heat-resistant expanded graphite sheet according to claim 8, wherein the hypophosphorous acid ester is a hypophosphorous acid diester (phosphonite)

which is represented by the following general formula (6) or a hypophosphorous acid monoester

which is represented by the following general formula (7):



wherein R^{15} is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 10, an aryl group having a carbon number of 6 to 18, or an aralkyl group consisting of an alkylene portion having a carbon number of 1 to 10 and an aryl portion having a carbon number of 6 to 18, and each of R^{16} , R^{17} , and R^{18} is an alkyl group having a carbon number of 1 to 10, an aryl group having a carbon number of 6 to 18, or an aralkyl group consisting of an alkylene portion having a carbon number of 1 to 10 and an aryl portion having a carbon number of 6 to 18.